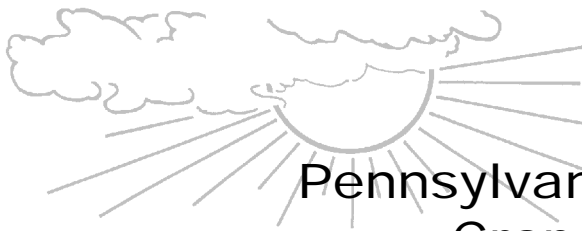




United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Pennsylvania Agricultural
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Pennsylvania: Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup

For The Week Ending April 30, 2000

Fair Week for Field Work: There were 3.7 days suitable for field work. Soil moisture was rated 5 percent short, 75 percent adequate and 20 percent surplus. Activities included spring plowing, planting oats, potatoes, field corn and sweet corn; fixing fences; machinery maintenance; ordering supplies; spreading lime and fertilizers; hauling manure; caring for livestock; spraying herbicides and pruning trees.

Crops: Oat planting continued to progress from last week. Oats were emerging in most districts and were in good to excellent condition. Corn and potato planting began in some areas, but it was too wet to plant in most areas. The barley acreage was heading well ahead of the average. Alfalfa and other hay crops were growing well and in good conditions, however some problems with weevil were reported. Some farmers cut ryalage last week. Spring plowing was 51 percent complete, 10 percent behind last year and 8 percent behind the five-year average.

Livestock: Pasture growth was slow in many areas. Some livestock reported on pastures but it was still too early for extensive grazing. Pasture was rated 56 percent good to excellent, compared to 55 percent the previous week.

Fruit & Vegetables: Peaches, cherries and apples continue to progress around the state. Much of the fruit crop is now in full bloom. Vegetable farmers are beginning to plant sweet corn, cabbage, onions, lettuce, peppers, radishes and tomatoes. Farmers were still waiting for soil to dry to begin more planting.

U.S. As Of April 23, 2000: Dry weather aided fieldwork across most of the Nation, but heavy rain halted field work in the central Corn Belt and around the Great Lakes near mid-week. Planting accelerated in the southern Corn Belt, lower Mississippi Valley, Great Plains, and Southeast. However, lingering wetness limited progress in parts of the Southeast

early in the week. Also, dry soils and strong winds hindered planting in parts of the southern Great Plains, eastern Gulf Coast, and Atlantic Coastal Plains. Planting and general fieldwork remained active in the Southwest. Crop emergence and development remained mostly ahead of normal due to adequate moisture and seasonal temperatures. Heavy rain limited field activities between the Atlantic coast and Appalachian Mountains from Virginia to New England. Twenty percent of the winter wheat crop was at the heading stage or beyond, compared with last year's 14-percent progress, and 1 week ahead of the 12-percent normal for this date. Mostly seasonal temperatures aided development in the lower Mississippi Valley, Southeast, and a large portion of the Great Plains. A few fields advanced to the heading stage near the Ohio River Valley in the Corn Belt and one-fourth of the wheat fields were heading in the Missouri Bootheel. Mostly adequate soil moisture supplies aided crop development in the central Great Plains and Corn Belt. Conditions deteriorated in parts of the northern and southern High Plains due to increasing moisture shortages. Nineteen percent of the corn acreage was planted, well ahead of last year's 9-percent pace and the 5-year average of 10 percent. Mostly dry weather aided rapid progress in Kansas and North Carolina, but progress was slow in Pennsylvania due to heavy rain. Oats seeding advanced to 51 percent of intended acreage, more than 1 week ahead of last year's 35-percent pace, and more than double the 25-percent average for this date. However, rain limited progress in most areas of the Corn Belt. In the northern Great Plains, planting accelerated due to dry weather and above-normal temperatures. Twenty percent of the crop was emerged. Rain provided moisture for germination in the central Corn Belt and Great Lakes region. The barley crop was 35-percent seeded, 8 percentage points ahead of last year's pace, and more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average of 20 percent.

Issued By:

The Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service, Harrisburg, PA, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, and the U.S. Department of Commerce, NOAA, National Weather Service.

Weather Data For Week Ending April 30, 2000

Reporting Station	Weekly Temperature				Growing Degree Days From April 1				Rainfall - Values Are For A 24-Hour Period Ending 7:00 A.M., In Inches									
	High	Low	Avg	Dep From Norm	40 Degrees		50 Degrees		April							For Week	From April 1	
					Days	Dep From Norm	Days	Dep From Norm	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	Total	Total	Dep From Norm
Erie	63	31	46	-4	203	20	35	33	0.00	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.14	5.97	2.73
Warren	69	29	47	-4	223	69	47	43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.41	2.88
Franklin	71	22	50	-2	289	105	72	58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.06	-0.47
Clearfield	70	30	48	-4	210	23	42	28	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	5.82	2.48
Pittsburgh	70	31	51	-2	333	45	102	72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.20	1.05
Rector	74	26	47	-6	231	-57	54	24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.87	1.72
Altoona	67	31	48	-7	257	-11	60	19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.09	0.02	0.00	0.17	4.60	1.43
Emporium	72	29	48	-4	224	37	46	32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.30	1.96
Wellsboro	67	29	44	-4	150	57	23	23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.16	2.81
State College	71	36	51	-3	291	60	75	45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.02	4.14	1.23
Williamsport	72	37	51	-2	325	36	74	39	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.02	5.57	2.04
Selinsgrove	72	36	49	-3	292	38	64	43	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	4.27	1.09
Montrose	69	27	44	-3	184	86	34	34	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.38	7.58	3.96
Scranton	70	36	48	-4	282	33	73	53	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	4.05	1.04
Allentown	67	33	50	-5	320	23	92	52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.06	4.42	0.68
Reading	70	36	50	-3	364	85	107	77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.13	3.29	-0.52
Harrisburg	72	40	53	-3	419	71	126	61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.46	1.22
Biglerville	68	36	50	-7	328	1	79	10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	4.57	1.21
Lancaster	70	37	50	-5	344	-4	95	30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.39	0.15
Philadelphia	70	41	52	-5	433	61	130	49	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.06	3.85	0.23

Weather Summary By: National Weather Service, State College, Pennsylvania

Crop Summary By: Liana Cuffman & Eric Stout, Agricultural Statisticians, NASS

PA Crop Progress For Week Ending April 30, 2000

	Current Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>			
Spring Plowing	51	46	61	59
Corn, Planted	8	3	10	11
Barley, Headed	40	10	8	19
Oats, Planted	61	48	67	62
Oats, Emerged	37	26	34	N/A
Potatoes, Planted	11	10	24	21
Peaches, Full Bloom	98	86	86	58
Cherries, Full Bloom	98	91	81	61
Apples, Pink Stage	96	58	64	57
Apples, Full Bloom	96	49	47	35

N / A = Not Available

PA Crop Condition For Week Ending April 30, 2000

	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>				
Winter Wheat	0	2	12	69	17
Oats	0	1	15	78	6
Alfalfa Stands	1	5	21	58	15
Timothy Clover Stands	5	2	30	52	11
Pasture Conditions	7	6	31	46	10

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